



Reprinted
January 26, 2016

HOUSE BILL No. 1089

DIGEST OF HB 1089 (Updated January 25, 2016 4:10 pm - DI 92)

Citations Affected: IC 10-17.

Synopsis: Veteran service officers. Creates the position of district service officer. Requires the veterans' affairs commission to establish certification requirements for district service officers. Requires the director of veterans' affairs to create six geographic districts in Indiana and appoint a district service officer for each district. Specifies the role and responsibilities of district service officers.

Effective: July 1, 2016.

Frye R, Forestal, Borders, Arnold L

January 5, 2016, read first time and referred to Committee on Veterans Affairs and Public Safety.

January 13, 2016, amended, reported — Do Pass. Referred to Committee on Ways and Means pursuant to Rule 127.

January 21, 2016, reported — Do Pass.

January 25, 2016, read second time, amended, ordered engrossed.

HB 1089—LS 6389/DI 123



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Second Regular Session of the 119th General Assembly (2016)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2015 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

HOUSE BILL No. 1089

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning public safety.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 10-17-1-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.169-2013,
2 SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2016]: Sec. 4. The commission shall do acts necessary or
4 reasonably incident to the fulfillment of the purposes of this chapter,
5 including the following:
6 (1) Adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to administer this chapter.
7 (2) Advise the veterans' state service officer in problems
8 concerning the welfare of veterans.
9 (3) Determine general administrative policies within the
10 department.
11 (4) Establish standards for certification of **district**, county, and
12 city service officers.
13 (5) Establish and administer a written examination for renewal of
14 the certification of **district**, county, and city service officers.
15 SECTION 2. IC 10-17-1-6, AS AMENDED BY P.L.136-2014,
16 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
17 JULY 1, 2016]: Sec. 6. (a) The director of veterans' affairs:

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(1) is the executive and administrative head of the Indiana department of veterans' affairs; and

(2) shall direct and supervise the administrative and technical activities of the department;

subject to the general supervision of the commission.

(b) The duties of the director include the following:

(1) To attend all meetings of the commission and to act as secretary and keep minutes of the commission's proceedings.

(2) To appoint the employees of the department necessary to carry out this chapter and to fix the compensation of the employees.

Employees of the department must qualify for the job concerned.

(3) To carry out the program for veterans' affairs as directed by the governor and the commission.

(4) To carry on field direction, inspection, and coordination of **district**, county, and city service officers as provided in this chapter.

(5) To prepare and conduct service officer training schools with the voluntary aid and assistance of the service staffs of the major veterans' organizations.

(6) To maintain an information bulletin service to **district**, county, and city service officers for the necessary dissemination of material pertaining to all phases of veterans' rehabilitation and service work, including information necessary to inform veterans of the provisions of IC 22-9-10.

(7) To perform the duties described in IC 10-17-11 for the Indiana state veterans' cemetery.

(8) To perform the duties described in IC 10-17-12 for the military family relief fund.

(9) To establish a program and set guidelines under which a medal of honor awardee may receive compensation when attending and participating in official ceremonies.

(10) To establish six (6) districts in Indiana to be staffed by a district service officer in each of the districts.

(11) To appoint a district service officer to each of the six (6) districts established under subdivision (10).

SECTION 3. IC 10-17-1-9.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016]: **Sec. 9.5. (a) A district service officer must do the following:**

(1) Serve in one (1) of the six (6) geographic districts established by the director of veterans' affairs under section 6(b)(10) of this chapter.



(2) Provide training and assistance to all city and county service officers located in the district service officer's district.

(3) Provide accreditation and reaccreditation opportunities for city and county service officers located in the district service officer's district.

(4) Perform community outreach services for veterans and veterans' families.

(5) Perform any other service deemed necessary by the commission.

(b) A district service officer must live in the district served by the officer.

(c) District service officers shall report to the director of veterans' affairs.

SECTION 4. IC 10-17-1-10, AS AMENDED BY P.L.169-2013, SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016]: Sec. 10. (a) Within thirty (30) days of their appointment, new **district**, county, or city service officers must attend a new service officer orientation presented by the Indiana department of veterans' affairs and, according to the standards established under section 4(4) of this chapter, become certified to assist veterans and their dependents and survivors. The curriculum for the new service officer orientation presented under this subsection shall be determined by the director.

(b) Within one (1) year of appointment, new service officers must attend a course presented by a national organization and become accredited to represent veterans.

(c) An individual employed as a **district**, county, or city service officer under this chapter on July 1, 2013, is required to become accredited not later than July 1, ~~2015~~, **2016**, to represent veterans.

(d) Annually, all **district**, county, or city service officers shall undergo a course of training to adequately address problems of discharged veterans in the service officer's **district**, county, or city, including a thorough familiarization with laws, rules, and regulations of the federal government and the state that affect benefits to which the veterans and dependents of the veterans are entitled. After a service officer has undergone this sustainment training and successfully passed a written test, the service officer shall be recertified by the director to assist veterans for the following year.



COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Veterans Affairs and Public Safety, to which was referred House Bill 1089, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill be amended as follows:

Page 1, delete lines 1 through 17.

Page 2, delete lines 1 through 4.

Page 3, delete lines 26 through 32.

Renumber all SECTIONS consecutively.

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to HB 1089 as introduced.)

BORDERS

Committee Vote: yeas 11, nays 0.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred House Bill 1089, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to HB1089 as printed January 14, 2016.)

BROWN T

Committee Vote: Yeas 22, Nays 0

HOUSE MOTION

Mr. Speaker: I move that House Bill 1089 be amended to read as follows:

Page 1, delete lines 15 through 17.

Page 2, delete line 1, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"SECTION 2. IC 10-17-1-6, AS AMENDED BY P.L.136-2014, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016]: Sec. 6. (a) The director of veterans' affairs:

- (1) is the executive and administrative head of the Indiana department of veterans' affairs; and
- (2) shall direct and supervise the administrative and technical

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activities of the department;
subject to the general supervision of the commission.

(b) The duties of the director include the following:

- (1) To attend all meetings of the commission and to act as secretary and keep minutes of the commission's proceedings.
- (2) To appoint the employees of the department necessary to carry out this chapter and to fix the compensation of the employees. Employees of the department must qualify for the job concerned.
- (3) To carry out the program for veterans' affairs as directed by the governor and the commission.
- (4) To carry on field direction, inspection, and coordination of **district**, county, and city service officers as provided in this chapter.
- (5) To prepare and conduct service officer training schools with the voluntary aid and assistance of the service staffs of the major veterans' organizations.
- (6) To maintain an information bulletin service to **district**, county, and city service officers for the necessary dissemination of material pertaining to all phases of veterans' rehabilitation and service work, including information necessary to inform veterans of the provisions of IC 22-9-10.
- (7) To perform the duties described in IC 10-17-11 for the Indiana state veterans' cemetery.
- (8) To perform the duties described in IC 10-17-12 for the military family relief fund.
- (9) To establish a program and set guidelines under which a medal of honor awardee may receive compensation when attending and participating in official ceremonies.
- (10) To establish six (6) districts in Indiana to be staffed by a district service officer in each of the districts.**
- (11) To appoint a district service officer to each of the six (6) districts established under subdivision (10)."**

Page 2, line 7, delete "commission under section 4(6)" and insert "**director of veterans' affairs under section 6(b)(10)**".

Renumber all SECTIONS consecutively.

(Reference is to HB 1089 as printed January 22, 2016.)

FRYE R

